NORTH-WESTERN FAIR,

Chicago, Illinois, May 30th 1865.

At a special meeting of about sixty ladies, held at No. 24 Cooper Union, New York, on Wednesday, 2 p. m., March 8th, Mrs. Hoge and Mrs. Livermore, lucidly and eloquently represented the claims of the North Western Fair, to be held in Chicago, May 30th, 1865. These ladies, who have, from the beginning of the war, been the prime movers of Sanitary benevolence in the North-West, who started the original Chicago Fair, out of which, all the other splendid Sanitary Fairs have grown, are now the animating spirits of the great enterprise, in which Chicago proposes to finish what she begun, in a way worthy of the brilliant and unlooked for chain of successes, of which having acted as the staple, she now proposes to act as the hook—fastening the end to the beginning. They represented the preparations for the Fair, both as to grounds, buildings, promises of contributions and general interest of the whole North-west, as on a stupendous scale. The devotion of the people of that region has always been such, that out of their comparative penury, they have sent 70,000 boxes of stores to the U. S. Sanitary Commission within two years, and chiefly from the farmer's and mechanic's modest homes. At this time Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois are all burning with zeal and enthusiasm about the North-Western Fair. Wheat and pork and live stock, potatoes and onions, with every other substantial product of that prairie country, are fast coming in, either in the form of promises, or actual contributions. One hundred and sixty-three distinct committees, representing every commercial, industrial and social interest, are enlisted in a noble rivalry in the enrichment of the Fair; Merchants and Bankers, Barbers and Butchers are organized into committees, and with a true democratic instinct, the chairman of the humblest committee is in the Board of the General Direction, the peer of the proudest head of the most important committee. The religious denominations—Catholics and Protestants, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Methodists, Universalists—each and all, vie with each other for a creditable representation. The Public Schools are organized, and will participate in the Celebration, uniting in certain peculiar festive displays, where the children will be grouped into exquisite forms, in the rythm of motion and of song. Art, Industry and Commerce are to unite in this splendid enterprise, which enlists the pride, patriotism and energy of the North-West, to an extraordinary pitch.

The acre of ground which the Fair Building is to occupy, fronts the Lake, on Michigan Avenue. Bridges are to cross in at least three places over that beautiful Avenue, so as to lift the Fair wholly above the street. A certain area of the Lake is to be enclosed, and an ampitheatre of seats arranged, whence

to view the Aquatic and Naval exhibitions which are to take place within the enclosure, where Monitors and other craft will exhibit their shapes and evolutions, and boat races and sham fights illustrate the war. A Sanitary Store Ship, fully equipped, is to be given by certain liberal parties to the Fair. A Steam-boat load of flowers and fruits is to come up from New Orleans. Nothing which processions, civic and military, young men and maidens, boys and girls, nothing which spectacle and music, banners and salvos of artillery, shows and sights, and vast accummulations of people can do, to make the North-Western Fair one of crowning splendor and productiveness, has been omitted from the programme. The greatest rail-road centre of the country or the world, almost the National centre of the National life and wealth, Chicago means to show herself a Queen, wearing the most glorious diadem the Nation has yet put on the head of any one of her great cities, in the form of honor to the soldiers fighting for our commerce, our trade, and our civic and universal wealth.

Congress has interested itself, as well it might, in this truly National Festival, and framed a special bill allowing importations to be free of duty, for the benefit of the North-Western Fair. It passed the Senate, but was lost in the House. The Departments are organizing in Washington on its behalf. The President and Mrs. Lincoln (unless forbidden by pressing reasons of State not likely to interfere with their present intentions) propose to be present at the opening, May 30th. Chief Justice Chase, and other eminent public men, are expected to honor the occasion.

It must be recollected that the West is not tired out with Fairs and Spectacles as the East is, and that its population is of a more inflammable kind than ours. It has been bottling up its patriotic fervors—letting off none on the 22d of February, or the 4th of March—against the opening of the Fair, when it hopes to have Richmond dangling to the chain of our other triumphs, and Gen. Grant perhaps released, to walk in her procession, and receive the gratitude of the West towards her own fortunate and brave son. No doubt the enthusiasm, the vast aggregation of people, the variety and originality of the Chicago Fair, will exceed anything ever seen in this Country. They are expecting such a crowd, that arrangements are making to feed in the Fair Restaurant, at least 20,000 people a day. We think that great hotel city must double its accommodations, or make one vast hotel of its private houses, if it does not expect a great many thousands of its guests to sleep in its open squares, and dine on the door-steps of its crowded mansions.

Philadelphia, Boston, and New York, will from self interest alone, emulate each other in the extent and beauty of the contributions representing them at the North-Western Fair. No important House in New York, or any other great city, be it a Dry Goods, a Grocery, a Jeweller's Establishment, a Machine Shop, or a Millinery, can afford to be otherwise than conspicuously advertised at the great Western Caravansary and Spectacle—when all the leading people of the whole West will give up a week, a fortnight, perhaps a month, to seeing each other, and seeing their friends, patrons, customers, and creditors, from all parts of the Country. New York and Chicago are really the two nobs of the electric chain enlivening the trade of the Nation. Ere long, a great ship-canal will make them as near to each other as New York and Albany. Meanwhile, they are more important to each other than New York and Brooklyn. Nothing that makes their people better acquainted, or better disposed towards each other, or

establishes closer intimacy and confidence, should be overlooked or despised. If the City of New York slights the opportunity of winning the gratitude and complaceney of Chicago, by neglecting handsome contributions to her Great Fair, it will be a mistake she will bitterly regret before next June is over. Every considerable establishment and interest of this City should be represented there. We trust a New York Department, under the superintendence of a New York Committee, themselves to be present at the Chicago Fair, will at once be organized, that Philadelphia and Boston, always creditably alive to their own interests, may not get the start of us in this bid for a good name and a good trade, with the Great North-West. Happily there is now existing a most generous sympathy between Chicago and New York. The West is disposed to show a little jealousy toward Boston and Philadelphia occasionally, but there is no such feeling towards New York, which she regards as a National City, belonging equally to the West and East, and finally to the North and South. Let us keep this proud and profitable position, by not failing to appreciate and support what is now so near her heart, the Great North-Western Fair—to come off May 30th, and to last probably through June.

For the sake of organizing the good will of New York, the ladies, at their meeting, elected the following Committee, to take charge of the interests of the North-Western Fair in this city, under the advice and protection of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, whose Branch in Chicago started this vast enterprise.

New York Committee of Ladies on the North-Western Fair.

Mrs. David Lane.
" R. M. Blatchford.
" Henry A. Coit.
" Daniel Le Roy.
" Laura Gibbs.
" G. T. Strong.

Mrs. D. C. O. Corwin, Brooklyn.
" J. S. T. Stranahan, "
Miss Mary Gardiner.
" C. Nash.
" Angelina Post.
Mrs. Marcus Spring.

In a few days a depot for the reception of goods will be opened, and the public invited to send in their contributions. The U. S. Sanitary Commission will undertake the delivery of all light articles, or articles of taste and *virtu*, of jewelry, or of money, which may be sent to the U. S. Sanitary Rooms, 823 Broadway, N. Y., up stairs.